



2ND ANNUAL CLIMATE AND HEALTH SYMPOSIUM 2024.
FOUR POINTS, KAMPALA, UGANDA | OCTOBER 15TH, 2024
Theme: Leveraging Community Strengths for Climate Resilient Health Systems in Africa”

Background

Africa's climate has changed over time, with an increase in the average temperature across the country. Extreme weather events such as the rise in intensity and severity of heatwaves, droughts, floods, and landslides have been attributed to these changes in Climate. Climate change does not only have profound direct and indirect implications to the African population but also its health systems. Climate change has, for example, aggravated the occurrence of water-borne diseases such as dysentery, cholera, and hepatitis E, vector-borne diseases such as malaria, respiratory diseases, and malnutrition-related illnesses, further straining the health system.

The fragile, weak, and inadequately funded health systems among Sub-Saharan African countries like Uganda increase their vulnerability to Climate change and its effects. This is even though the health system should thus be climate-resilient to ‘anticipate, respond to, cope with, recover from, and adapt to such climate shocks and stress, to bring sustained improvements in population health. The extent to which health systems in Africa can accomplish these is unclear, with no lessons being documented to inform future system's capacity for response, adaptability, and resilience in Africa and elsewhere.

Building on the success of the inaugural climate and health symposium that was featured as a pre-COP28 event for the health sector in Uganda, organized by the Ministry of Health Uganda in partnership with the World Health Organization and Tree Adoption, happened in 2023. The conveners are organizing the 2nd annual climate and health symposium with a focus across African regions to foster a transfer of knowledge and best practices. This symposium will be organized under the theme “Leveraging Community Strengths for Climate Resilient Health Systems in Africa.”

This year’s symposium aims to highlight local communities' critical role in addressing climate change's health impacts. By focusing on grassroots empowerment, the conference will explore how community-led initiatives, local knowledge, and bottom-up approaches can drive sustainable and resilient health solutions. Participants from across Africa will share experiences, innovations, and strategies to build capacity, enhance resilience, and improve health outcomes in the face of climate change.

Approach and Purpose

High-level conference engaging climate and health stakeholders in Africa and preparations for COP 29 negotiations and process. The conference stakeholders will:

- Discuss the intersection of climate change and health, focusing on grassroots impacts and solutions.
- Review the current status of the health sector in relation to climate change, based on VAA findings and NDC integration.
- Present case studies and best practices of successful grassroots projects addressing climate and health.
- Review the Health National Adaptation Plan.
- Present evidence and initiatives for building low-carbon, climate-resilient health systems.



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- Conduct training for community health workers and implement nature-based solutions in health facilities.
- Collaborative sessions to draft and adopt a position paper for African negotiations on health at #COP29.

Expected Outcomes:

- Comprehensive assessment of the health sector's status in relation to climate change across Africa.
- Enhanced understanding of community-led initiatives and grassroots empowerment.
- Analysis of the Health National Adaptation Plan.
- Collaboratively developed position paper for #COP29 negotiations.
- Strengthened networks and partnerships among health and climate stakeholders across Africa.

Subthemes:

- Health impacts of climate change
- Health benefits of climate mitigation
- Community Health Systems and Climate Resilience
- Indigenous Knowledge and Practices in Climate Adaptation
- Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Adaptation Strategies
- Policy and Governance for Community-Led Climate Action
- Education, Awareness, and Capacity Building